

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, June 10, 2005*

## MPDC WELCOMES INAUGURAL CLASS OF NEW SENIOR CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The MPDC this week welcomed the newest members of its community policing team: 41 residents who make up the inaugural class of the District's new Senior Citizens Police Academy. City Administrator Robert Bobb joined officials of the MPDC, the DC Office on Aging and other public safety and community leaders in welcoming the participants to the new program, during an orientation session at One Judiciary Square. The Senior Citizens Police Academy is a 12-week program that gives seniors a chance to learn about the operations of the MPDC, explore the concepts of community policing, develop problem-solving skills and become crime-prevention ambassadors in their neighborhoods. Following Thursday's orientation session, the 41 members of the first Academy will attend classes on consecutive Tuesday mornings for approximately 2-3 hours per class. Participants in the Senior Citizens Police Academy must be age 50 or older, a District of Columbia resident, willing to complete the entire program and consent to a background check. There is no cost to participate in the program. The Senior Citizens Police Academy was developed in concert with the Citizens Partnership Institute, a crime prevention leadership training program for residents and community stakeholders in DC.

① Read the full news release at:  
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3224>

① For more detailed information on the program, including a listing of courses and an application form for future Academy classes, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,556706.asp>

## 27 "OFFICERS OF THE MONTH" HONORED DURING JUNE CHAMPS AWARDS CEREMONY

Earlier this year, Sergeant Charles Woodard of the Fifth District was patrolling the 1300 block of North Capitol Street, NW, when he observed a subject exchange currency for a "white object" that he believed to be drugs. As Sergeant Woodard approached the suspect and asked him to stop, the suspect became aggressive and defensive. Sergeant Woodard again issued a stop order, but the subject pushed Sergeant Woodard in an effort to escape. During the ensuing foot pursuit and struggle, the suspect continued running toward O Street, NW, where Officer James Thomas (in plain clothes and an off-duty status) assisted in stopping and apprehending the suspect. A search of the suspect revealed a zip-lock bag containing a white powdered substance and a handgun. Tragically, just hours before the incident, Officer Thomas received word that his only sister had passed away. But he was able to set aside his grief to assist a fellow officer in removing an armed and dangerous offender from the streets of DC. Both men were among 27 MPDC "officers of the month" honored recently during the June CHAMPS awards luncheon.

① Read about the outstanding accomplishments of all 27 awardees by going to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,557273,mpdcNav\\_GID,1544.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,557273,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp)

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The June awards luncheon was hosted by the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel in Northwest.

① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,j.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,j.asp)

## TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars can strike at almost any time and on almost any target. But burglars particularly like targets that look vulnerable. So if you're traveling this summer, make sure you take a few minutes to plan how to help keep your home and your possessions secure while you're away. The primary goal is to make your home look "lived in" (almost all burglars prefer homes where residents clearly aren't home). That means arranging to have your newspaper deliveries stopped and your mail collected by a trusted neighbor. If you're going to be away for a couple of weeks, it may be a good idea to have someone mow your lawn. It's probably best not to put your garbage cans out for pickup—or, alternatively, arrange to have a neighbor take in your can after the collection date. Empty trash cans left at the curb or in an alley for several days can be a sure-fire sign that no one is home. Inside, set timers to turn on lights—as well as radio or television sets—in various rooms at various times of the day. And don't change your voice mail message or your email reply to indicate that you are "out of town."

## POLICE INVESTIGATE SERIES OF POSSIBLY RELATED ROBBERIES AT HOTELS IN NORTHWEST

The MPDC is seeking the public's assistance in locating the suspect or suspects responsible for several robberies at DC hotels that may be related. The offenses, which did not result in physical injury, were committed at seven different hotels in Northwest DC since mid-April. The victims have been mostly front desk personnel, although a parking lot attendant and a guest were robbed in two separate cases. Investigators are looking into the possibility that one subject may be responsible for these robberies. In each case, the suspect is generally described as a black male, 24-30 years of age, 6'0-6'4 in height, wearing dark clothing and a ski mask or a scarf. The last six robberies were committed with the use of a dark colored handgun. Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099 or DC Crime Solvers at 1-800-673-2777. All calls to the Crime Solvers Unit are confidential, and a caller need not give his or her name. If the information provided by a caller to Crime Solvers leads to an arrest and indictment, that caller will be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

## NEWS & NOTES

**MPDC To Hold Vehicle Auction.** The MPDC will hold a public auction of vehicles at 9 am on Wednesday, June, 15, 2005, at the Department's Blue Plains Impoundment Lot in Southwest DC. Approximately 70 forfeited vehicles will be auctioned at this event. Full details at <http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3215>.

**Council OKs MPDC Pay Package.** The DC Council this past week approved the compensation portion of the collective bargaining agreement recently negotiated with the Fraternal Order of Police MPDC Labor Committee. The agreement provides a 21 percent increase in pay for sworn MPDC members (excluding the Chief) over the life of the five-year contract, which is retroactive to October 2003. Chief Ramsey has said the pay increase keeps the MPDC competitive in the law enforcement employment market and appropriately rewards MPDC members for their success in reducing crime.

**President Nominates Wainstein as US Attorney.** President Bush this week sent to the Senate the nomination of Kenneth L. Wainstein to be the US Attorney for the District of Columbia, for a term of four years. Wainstein has served as interim US Attorney for the past year, following the resignation of former US Attorney Roscoe Howard. Chief Ramsey called Wainstein "a great asset for crime fighting in the area."

- ① Learn more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year at:

[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547557,mpdcNav\\_GID,1553,mpdcNav,.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547557,mpdcNav_GID,1553,mpdcNav,.asp)

- ① Read the full news release, which includes the locations of the seven robberies, at:

<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3223>

- ① For a list of traveler safety tips in hotels, visit:

[http://www.ahla.com/terror\\_safety\\_tips.asp](http://www.ahla.com/terror_safety_tips.asp)

- ① Learn more about the Crime Solvers program by visiting:

[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,544778,mpdcNav\\_GID,1533.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,544778,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp)

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 6/10/05</b>
◆ 2005: 72	
◆ 2004: 84	
◆ % Change: -14.3%	
◆ Closure Rate: 54.2% (39 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 6/4/05</b>
◆ Total: 912	
◆ Drugs: 174	
◆ Weapons: 24	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 18	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	<b>week end. 6/4/05</b>
◆ Arrests: 64	
◆ Curfew Violations: 74	
◆ Truants: 19	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 6/8/05</b>
◆ June: 24	
◆ May: 202	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,099	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 6/10/05</b>
◆ 2005: 20	
◆ 2004: 25	
◆ % Change: --20.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**